Rights of inhabitants of Uttarakhand

† 448. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the fact that inhabitants of Uttarakhand were traditionally bestowed upon certain rights regarding firewood, timber and wood for making agricultural instruments, which were called haq-haqoob;

(b) if so, whether they still enjoy this haq-haqoob;

(c) if not, reasons for terminating/reducing these rights; and

(d) whether his Ministry is ready to re-consider the whole episode and re-establish the above rights with some enhancements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The people of Uttarakhand are still enjoying their traditional rights known as haq-haqoob. However, die quantity of these rights have been reduced due to the ban imposed by Supreme Court on felling of trees.

(d) The Government of India has enacted the Scheduled Tribe and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest rights) Act, 2006 for recognition of the rights of the people living in and around forests.

Cruelty to animals

449. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of cases of cruelty inflicted on animals during each of the last three years, year wise and State-wise;

(b) the number of persons convicted in this regard during the said period, State-wise; and

(c) the provisions made by Government to check such incidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) The Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act, 1960 was enacted by the Central Government to prevent infliction of unnecessary pain or suffering on animals. Prevention of cruelty falls in the Concurrent List of the Constitution and hence the appropriate law enforcement machinery are the State Governments/Local Authorities. Animal Welfare Board of India (AWBI), the statutory body under the Ministry of Environment and Forests addresses all the State Governments to enforce the provisions regarding cruelties to animals and to book the offenders suitably. The cases as reported by State Governments/Union Territories during the last three years are given in the Statement.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.